

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the first through third paragraphs of the statement of invention (page 3, lines 10-20) with the following two paragraphs:

In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a verification system for a computer software installation ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ having a primary library file, the primary library file having a digital signature; a loader program arranged to obtain a digital signature key and further arranged to load the primary library file; and a plurality of secondary files arranged to be referenced by the primary library file, each of the plurality of secondary files having a digital signature; wherein the loader program is arranged to verify and selectively load the primary library file by comparing the obtained digital signature key with the digital signature of the primary library file, the primary library file being further arranged to subsequently verify and selectively load the plurality of secondary files by calling the loader program to compare the obtained digital signature key with the digital signature of each of the plurality of secondary files.

In accordance with a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a verification method for a computer software installation ~~as claimed in claim 7~~ including launching a loader program arranged to load files and further arranged to obtain a digital signature key; using the loader program to verify the authenticity of a digital signature incorporated in a primary library file by comparing said digital signature with the digital signature key; selectively loading the primary library file in dependence upon the successful verification of its digital signature; using the primary library file and the loader program to verify the authenticity of digital signatures incorporated in each of a plurality of secondary files by comparing them with the digital signature key; and, selectively loading the plurality of secondary files in dependence upon the successful verification of their digital signatures. A computer program element comprising computer program means may perform this method.

~~In accordance with a third aspect of the present invention there is provided a computer program element as claimed in claim 13.~~

S.N.: 10/050,083
Art Unit: 2137

Please replace the paragraph on lines 16-17 at page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 1, there is shown an illustrative block diagram of computer software files associated with a Java Virtual Machine (JVM ®) installation, such as Java 2. Java is a high level, object oriented programming language developed especially for web applications.
A Java Virtual Machine is a virtual machine that runs Java ® byte code.